

Message Text

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P 080640Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4828

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, ASEAN, E, XC
SUBJ: REVISED TEXT OF UNDER SECRETARY COOPER'S SPEECH AT US/ASEAN
ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS SEPTEMBER 8-10, 1977

REF: STATE 211920

FOLLOWING IS REVISED TEXT OF SPEECH GIVEN BY UNDER SECRETARY
COOPER IN RESPONSE TO SECRETARY ROMULO'S OPENING ADDRESS:

BEGIN QUOTE:

MR. CHAIRMAN, -- HEADS OF THE ASEAN DELEGATIONS,
AND FELLOW PARTICIPANTS.

I AND MEMBERS OF MY DELEGATION, ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED
STATES GOVERNMENT, VERY MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR KIND WORDS OF
WELCOME AND TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN JOINING WITH YOU IN THIS
FIRST MEETING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICAN AND THE
STATES OF THE SOUTH EAST ASIAN NATIONS. LOOKING AROUND THE
ROOM, IT IS PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT I AND MY
COLLEAGUES ARE MEETING TODAY WITH MANY FRIENDS WHOM WE HAVE
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KNOWN BEFORE, REPRESENTING NATIONS WITH WHICH THE UNITED STATES
HAS HAD LONG AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS. FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE
ARE MEETING WITH YOU NOT AS REPRESENTATIVES OF INDIVIDUAL
COUNTRIES, BUT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ASEAN AS A COLLECTIVE
INSTITUTION.

BEFORE GOING FURTHER, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WISH TO STATE

THAT MY DELEGATION AND I ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF THE HOSPITALITY BEING EXTENDED BY PRESIDENT MARCOS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES IN HOSTING THESE CONSULTATIONS. IT IS OUR COMMON GOOD FORTUNE TO PARTAKE OF THE WARM FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT BEING PROVIDED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT.

LOOKING BACK ON ASEAN'S FIRST TEN YEARS, THE UNITED STATES IS STRUCK BY THE STEADY GROWTH IN COHESION, SELF-RELIANCE AND POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH ON THE PART OF ASEAN'S MEMBERS. THEY HAVE MET AND MASTERED THE IMMENSE CHALLENGE POSED FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA BY THE TRAGIC EVENTS OF INDOCHINA AND THE MAJOR READJUSTMENT OF U.S. MILITARY STRENGTH IN THIS REGION. THE SUCCESS OF ASEAN AS AN ORGANIZATION HAS PARALLELED AND REINFORCED THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND RISING WORLD IMPORTANCE OF ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS. WE SALUTE THESE DEVELOPMENTS AND BELIEVE THAT THEY BODE WELL FOR THE PEACE AND PROSPERITY OF ALL THE NATIONS OF ASIA.

WE HAVE LONG ENJOYED WITH EACH ASEAN MEMBER COUNTRY COOPERATIVE AND FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIPS. THESE HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY ECONOMIC IN EMPHASIS INVOLVING TRADE, AID, INVESTMENT AND ISSUES OF GLOBAL INTEREST. THIS MEETING BRINGS TO THESE OLD RELATIONSHIPS AN IMPORTANT NEW DIMENSION. IT REPRESENTS AN EXPERIMENT AIMED AT DETERMINING WHETHER A REGIONAL APPROACH TO MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST CAN BRING UNCLASSIFIED

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ADDITIONAL ADVANTAGES TO EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS. THIS IS THE CENTRAL QUESTION OUR NATIONS WILL JOINTLY ATTEMPT TO BEGIN TO ANSWER THIS WEEK.

IN THAT CONTEXT, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT ASEAN HAS IMPORTANCE FOR GLOBAL AS WELL AS FOR ASIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE ATTACH PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE TO ASEAN'S PRESENT AND PROSPECTIVE ROLES IN FOUR RESPECTS. FIRST, ASEAN IS A PRAGMATIC FORCE, INTENT ON PURSUING A CONSTRUCTIVE RATHER THAN A CONFRONTATIONAL ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC FORUMS.

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IN CONSEQUENCE, ASEAN HAS ACHIEVED GROWING INFLUENCE AND LEADERSHIP BOTH AMONG DEVELOPING NATIONS AND IN THE OVERALL NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. SECONDLY, ASEAN IS A SOURCE OF NUMEROUS COMMODITIES IMPORTANT FOR INDUSTRIALIZING AND INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS ALIKE. ASEAN'S WORKMANLIKE APPROACH AND ITS CONCERN TO BE REALISTIC IN SEEKING IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS, SHOULD HELP ACHIEVE MUTUAL BENEFITS FOR PRODUCING AND CONSUMING NATIONS ALIKE. THIRDLY, ASEAN IS AN AREA WITH UNUSUAL GROWTH POTENTIAL -- ONE WHICH OFFERS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITSELF AND ITS ECONOMIC PARTNERS WITHIN A WORLD SYSTEM OF LIBERALIZED TRADE AND INVESTMENT. FINALLY, ASEAN IS A GROUP WHICH HAS GAINED RECOGNITION FOR ITS EMPHASIS ON MUTUAL COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT.

IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT IN ASIA, IT MAY FURTHER ASSIST OUR DISCUSSIONS IF I NOTE THAT EARLIER THIS YEAR SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE ENNUNCIATED FIVE BASIC PRINCIPLES WHICH GUIDE THE POLICIES OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARD THE PEOPLES AND NATIONS OF ASIA.

-- FIRST, THE UNITED STATES IS-AND WILL REMAIN AN ASIAN AND PACIFIC POWER.

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-- SECOND, THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE ITS IMPORTANT ROLE IN CONTRIBUTING TO PEACE AND STABILITY IN ASIA AND IN THE PACIFIC.

-- THIRD, THE UNITED STATES SEEKS NORMAL AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES IN THE AREA ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY AND MUTUAL RESPECT.

-- FOURTH, THE UNITED STATES WILL PURSUE MUTUAL EXPANSION OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT ACROSS THE PACIFIC, RECOGNIZING THE

GROWING INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE ECONOMIES OF THE UNITED STATES
AND THE REGION, AND,

-- FIFTH, WE WILL USE OUR INFLUENCE TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN
CONDITION OF THE PEOPLES OF ASIA.

EACH OF THESE PRINCIPLES HAS CONCRETE MEANING AS WE MEET
TOGETHER IN MANILA.

CONCERNS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED THAT THE UNITED STATES
MIGHT WITHDRAW FROM THIS PART OF THE WORLD OR THAT WE WOULD
ABANDON AN ACTIVE ROLE IN SUPPORT OF PEACE AND STABILITY IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA. ON THE CONTRARY, WE ARE AND WILL REMAIN
ENGAGED WITH THE NATIONS OF THIS REGION AND WITH ASEAN.
OUR COMMITMENT COMPRISES FAR MORE THAN OUR MILITARY PRESENCE
-- WE ARE PARTNERS IN TRADE, IN MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTIONS, AND IN THE CONTINUING DIALOGUE ABOUT THE
MANAGEMENT OF THE WORLD ECONOMY. OUR CURRENT MEETING IS
IN ITSELF AN EXPRESSION OF OUR GROWING AND FRUITFUL INTER-
DEPENDENCE WITH OUR LONG-STANDING FRIENDS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.
OUR INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING AN ACCOMMODATION WITH OTHER
NATIONS IN THIS REGION WILL BE PURSUED PRUDENTLY WITH CAREFUL
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ATTENTION TO PRIORITIES. I WOULD ALSO ADD THAT THE RECENT
VISIT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
CHINA REFLECTS OUR BELIEF THAT A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP
WITH CHINA IS ALSO IMPORTANT FOR GLOBAL AND REGIONAL EQUILIBRIUM.

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OUR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE ASEAN ARE FOUNDED ON A RECOGNITION OF INTERDEPENDENCE. INDEED, INTERDEPENDENCE IS THE THEME WHICH HARMONIZES AND GIVES THE MOST MEANING TO OUR MUTUAL OBJECTIVES AT THESE TALKS, OUR AGENDA OF DISCUSSIONS REVEALS THE WIDE RANGE OF THIS INTERDEPENDENCE. SO TOO DO THE DATA. IN 1976, THE UNITED STATES WAS ASEAN'S SECOND LARGEST TRADING PARTNER ACCOUNTING FOR ABOUT EIGHTEEN PERCENT OF ASEAN'S TWO-WAY GLOBAL TRADE. FOR OUR PART, WE ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON THE ASEAN STATES FOR OUR IMPORTS OF TIN, VEGETABLE OILS AND FATS, AND RUBBER. SIGNIFICANTLY, THE GROWTH IN U.S. TRADE WITH ASEAN BETWEEN 1970 AND 1976 WAS GREATER THAN THE GROWTH AT OVERALL U.S. TRADE -- WHILE OUR TRADE TRIPLED WHILE OUR TRADE WITH ASEAN MORE THAN QUADRUPLED DURING THIS PERIOD OF TIME. THE BOOK VALUE OF OUR INVESTMENTS IN ASEAN HAS TRIPLED BETWEEN 1970 AND 1975. BEHIND THESE STATISTICS IS A RAMIFYING NETWORK OF ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS -- INVOLVING NOT SIMPLY THE EXCHANGE OF GOODS AND SERVICES BUT ALSO THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, GROWTH IN COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAVEL, AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF BUSINESS TIES. WE APPROACH ASEAN WITH A DESIRE TO COMPLEMENT AND SUPPLEMENT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WHEREVER WE CAN IN AREAS OF OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS. WE CAN JOINTLY

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ADVANCE MANY OF THESE INTERESTS IN OUR GLOBAL EFFORTS. BUT REFLECTING OUR RECOGNITION OF THE VALUE AND STRENGTH OF REGIONAL COOPERATION, WE ARE ALSO EXPLORING WAYS OF ENHANCING OUR SUPPORT OF ROGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK WHICH HAVE A SPECIAL VALUE AND ROLE IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS.

INTERDEPENDENCE, WHICH OFFERS GREAT BENEFITS, ALSO IMPOSES RESPONSIBILITIES. THE PROSPERITY OF THE WORLD ECONOMY IS NOT GUARANTEED BY ANY AUTOMATIC OR SELF-REGULATING PROCESS. THE PLAY OF MARKET FORCES MUST BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH THOUGHTFUL AND DELIBERATE ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT. AT A NATIONAL LEVEL, POLICIES OF FULL EMPLOYMENT AND PRICE STABILITY ARE NECESSARY TO ASSURE THE PROSPERITY IS WIDESPREAD AND ENDURING. MOREOVER, THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL NATIONS OF THE WORLD HAVE A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD THEIR TRADING PARTNERS AND TOWARD EACH OTHER. INFLATION OR UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE INDUSTRIAL CENTES CAN CREATE DISTURBANCES IN THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE ENTIRE WORLD, JUST AS INSTABILITY, SHARP PRICE INCREASES OR SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS IN RAW MATERIALS OR ENERGY CAN DISRUPT THE

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY.

IN A WORLD OF INTERDEPENDENCE, THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES
MUST BE COOPERATION AND MUTUAL BENEFIT. ONLY THROUGH A
GROWING PROCESS OF CONSULTATION AND MUTUAL CONCERN CAN NATIONAL
ECONOMIC POLICIES BE BROUGHT INTO HARMONY. AND ONLY THROUGH
A SEARCH FOR MEASURES OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND REJECTION OF
MEASURES WHICH HELP ONE NATION AT THE COST OF ANOTHER, CAN
THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THE WORLD ECONOMY BE REALIZED.

THESE PRINCIPLES HAVE DIRECT APPLICATION TO TODAY'S
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. THE RECENT PERIOD OF UNCERTAINTY AND
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DISRUPTION IN THE WORLD ECONOMY HAS CREATED A NEW IMPETUS

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
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FOR PROTECTIONISM IN BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
TO A GREAT DEGREE, THIS SELF-DEFEATING IMPULSE HAS BEEN
SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED. THE GREAT BENEFITS OF AN OPEN,
NON-DISCRIMINATORY TRADING SYSTEM HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AND
PRESERVED. BUT ALL OF US MUST CONTINUE TO DEFEND THE
PRINCIPLES OF OPEN TRADE AND TO EXPAND THEIR APPLICATION IN
AN ORDERLY AND RECIPROCAL WAY. FOR OUR PART, THE UNITED
STATES PLEDGES TO GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE MEANS OF

IMPROVING MARKET ACCESS FOR THE PRODUCTS OF INTEREST TO ASEAN. AND WE HOPE THAT THE NATIONS OF ASEAN WILL BE ALERT TO THE PROSPECTS OF MUTUAL BENEFITS FROM A REDUCTION IN PROTECTION OF YOUR ECONOMIES.

THESE MEASURES OF TRADE EXPANSION SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS CONCESSIONS -- AS IN THE TRADITIONAL LANGUAGE OF TRADE NEGOTIATIONS -- BUT RATHER AS A MEANS OF IMPROVING ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY TO THE GAIN OF ALL CONCERNED. A TARIFF REDUCTION IN ONE COUNTRY IS OF BENEFIT NOT SIMPLY TO PRODUCERS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY, BUT ALSO TO CONSUMERS AT HOME AND, IN THE LONG RUN, TO THE VIGOR AND COMPETITIVENESS OF DOMESTIC INDUSTRY.

WHILE AN OPEN TRADING SYSTEM OFFERS GREAT BENEFITS
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WHICH GO WITH INTERDEPENDENCE, IT ALSO POSES SOME CHARACTERISTIC PROBLEMS. IN THE LAST YEAR, THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING CONSENSUS AMONG THE NATIONS OF THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING WORLD THAT WIDE FLUCTUATIONS OF COMMODITY PRICES DO NOT PROMOTE ECONOMIC EFFICIENCY. WE ARE NOW TOGETHER ENGAGED IN A PROCESS OF COMMODITY DISCUSSIONS, AND DISCUSSIONS OF THE FORMATION OF A COMMON FUND, WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO INTRODUCE GREATER ORDER AND STABILITY INTO COMMODITY MARKETS. WE IN THE UNITED STATES SEE THIS EFFORT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT INTO PRACTICE THE PRINCIPLES OF COOPERATION AND MUTUAL BENEFIT. WE PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE THE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE WHICH ASEAN AND ITS MEMBERS HAVE PURSUED IN THE VARIOUS FORUMS WHERE DISCUSSIONS ARE TAKING PLACE.

PRIVATE INVESTMENT ALSO OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT PRIVATE INVESTMENT CAN MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. BUT IT IS UP TO THE HOST COUNTRY TO SET THE RULES FOR INVESTMENT. AS A GOVERNMENT, WE HAVE AN INTEREST THAT THE RULES, ONCE SET, BE FAIRLY APPLIED, BUT WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO FOIST ANY INVESTMENT ON A COUNTRY WHICH DOES NOT WISH TO RECEIVE IT.

THE GOAL OF ALL THESE POLICIES -- SENSIBLE MACROECONOMIC MANAGEMENT, OPEN TRADE, COMMODITY STABILIZATION, PRIVATE INVESTMENT -- IS ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. THE UNITED STATES IS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATIONS OF ASEAN AND WILL CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TOWARD THIS OBJECTIVE.

DEVELOPMENT HOWEVER, IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF, BUT A CRUCIALLY IMPORTANT MEANS OF IMPROVING THE HUMAN CONDITION.

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THE UNITED STATES WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARD THE FULFILLMENT OF BASIC HUMAN NEEDS, PROTECTION OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL, AND PROMOTION OF POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT. OUR POLICIES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED WITH A CAREFUL REGARD FOR THE SITUATION IN EACH COUNTRY, HAVING IN MIND THE TREND OF GOVERNMENTAL EFFORTS AS WELL AS THE NATURE OF THEIR PROBLEMS.

ECONOMIC RELATIONS INVOLVE MORE THAN AN EXCHANGE OF MONEY AND PRODUCTS. THE PROGRESS OF ASEAN OVER THE LAST DECADE REMINDS US OF THE INTANGIBLE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION. IN MY VIEW, THESE "INVISIBLES" -- TO USE AN ECONOMIC EXPRESSION -- REFLECT A NEW SENSE OF COMMUNITY IN THIS REGION WHICH IS MANIFESTED

-- BY THE STRENGTHENING LINKS BINDING THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMUNITY TOGETHER;

-- BY THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF ASEAN'S COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC STRENGTH;

-- BY ASEAN'S INFLUENCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DELIBERATIONS;

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-- BY THE HIGH INTEREST THAT ASEAN SHOWS IN CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE BENEFITS OF ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE,

AN INTEREST RECIPROCATED IN YOUR RECENT DIALOGUES WITH
AUSTRALIA, CANADA, JAPAN, NEW ZEALAND AND WITH THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITY; AND

-- BY THE GROWING DETERMINATION OF ITS MEMBERS TO SUSTAIN
AND STRENGTHEN THE ASEAN COMMUNITY. IN THAT REGARD, WE HAVE
NOTED THE WILLINGNESS OF MEMBERS TO PUT AN END TO TERRITORIAL
UNCERTAINTIES.

I WAS IMPRESSED, MR. CHAIRMAN, BY THE BREADTH OF THE
SUBJECTS ADDRESSED AT THE RECENT SECOND ASEAN SUMMIT IN KUALA
LUMPUR AS OUTLINED IN THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE HEADS OF
YOUR GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THESE SESSIONS. ITS SCOPE REFLECTS
THE MANY FACETS OF INTERCHANGE WHICH CONCERN THE STATES OF
ASEAN.

ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT INCLUDED IN OUR AGENDA TODAY, I WISH TO COMM
ENT

THAT TWO ITEMS INCLUDED IN THE ASEAN COMMUNIQUE HAVE A
SPECIAL INTEREST FOR THE UNITED STATES -- THE CAMPAIGN TO
LIMIT AND CONTROL THE PRODUCTION AND SPREAD OF ILLICIT
NARCOTICS AND DRUGS WHICH CREATE HUMAN MISERY WHILE SAPPING
OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE -- HUMAN TALENT; AND THE NEED TO
PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES WHO,
ALONG WITH THEIR TORMENTS AND PROBLEMS, ALSO PROVIDE US WITH
NEW HUMAN RESOURCES. AS YOU KNOW, THE UNITED STATES IS
ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN BOTH OF THESE MATTERS WITH THE STATES
OF ASEAN IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL CAPACITIES. WE ARE IMPRESSED
BY THE ATTITUDE OF THESE STATES AND THE TANGIBLE PROGRESS
THEY HAVE MADE IN DEALING WITH THESE PROBLEMS, OFTEN AT GREAT
DIFFICULTY AND COST TO THEMSELVES. WE ARE PREPARED TO BE
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OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE IN WAYS THAT BEST SUIT THE STATES MOST
DIRECTLY CONCERNED.

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4833

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IN CONCLUSION, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WISH TO NOTE THAT OUR MEETING TODAY, ALTHOUGH HISTORIC IN TERMS OF BEING FIRST, IS IN FACT AN EXTENSION OF PROGRESSIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ASEAN IN LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER HOW BEST TO CONDUCT OUR AFFAIRS FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

THE MEETING COMES AT A GOOD TIME. WHILE THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN FIRMED, NUMEROUS DETAILS HAVE YET TO BE WORKED OUT. THIS MEANS ON THE ONE HAND THAT WE CANNOT MAKE DEFINITIVE STATEMENTS HERE ON MANY ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST, BUT IT MEANS ALSO THAT WHAT WE LEARN HERE CAN HAVE A BEARING ON THE DECISIONS ACTUALLY TAKEN. WHILE I CANNOT ASSURE THAT EVERY DECISION WILL ACCORD WITH THE WISHES OF ASEAN COUNTRIES, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR VOICE WILL BE HEARD IN THE DELIBERATIONS. IN THAT SENSE, THESE REPRESENT TRUE CONSULTATIONS ON OUR SIDE AND I HOPE TOO, THAT OUR VIEWS ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN YOUR DELIBERATIONS ON MANY ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

I WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT FOR MY DELEGATION THE SUCCESS UNCLASSIFIED

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OF OUR DISCUSSIONS IS NOT DEPENDENT UPON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SPECIFIC GOALS OR SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS. WHILE SUCH RESULTS WOULD BE WELCOME, WE BELIEVE THAT A SIGNAL BENEFIT FOR ALL OF US AT THIS TIME IS THE VALUABLE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION. WE THUS JOIN THESE TALKS IN THE SAME SPIRIT THAT HAS BROUGHT SUCH STRENGTH TO THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS -- THAT OF HONEST RECOGNITION OF DIVERSE INTERESTS, COUPLED WITH A DETERMINATION TO SEEK AREAS FOR COOPERATION AND MUTUAL BENEFIT.

THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN.
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